**TOWNSHIP OF MEDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAAC) MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023**

1. **Roll Call** 7:04 PM
Present: Pola Galie, Bob Lee, Robert “Bo” Petrillo, Pamela Sloves, Sandy Kruger, Alice Levas, Deb Evans, Paul Celia, Ileen Wright, Beth Portocalis, and Councilwoman Donna Symons

Guests: Cecilia Schmidt, Ruth Darlington
2. **Oaths Of Office***–* Administered by Councilwoman Symons. Beth will contact anyone who has not yet submitted.
3. **Elections*:***Chair: Pola Galie nominated by Deb Evans. No other nominations so Deb made the motion; Pam Sloves seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
Vice Chair: Deb Evans nominated by Pola Galie. No other nominations so Pola made the motion; Bo Petrillo seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
Recording Secretary: No one nominated or elected for this position. It was decided that committee members will take turns recording the minutes.
4. **Review/approve minutes of November 2022 Meeting**

Minutes approved without comment. Motion by Deb Evans, Second by Bo Petrillo. Sandy Kruger and Alice Levas abstained.

1. **Public Comments (limited to 5 minutes per person)**None of the public present spoke.
2. **Old Business**

• Sustainable NJ Certification Planning (responded 1/6/23) – Deb Evans announced that we have applied for Silver Level. Waste Management was considered the leading project where we obtained points. The second leading project is Emergency Management and resiliency. ANJEC offers a webinar for more information.

• Green Team Planning - Trex bench – Our Green Team is collecting plastics for a 4th bench. The second bench ready for assembling and will be placed in Cow Point near the Gazebo. (1st bench is in Still Park). Bench 3 is ordered and will be placed in the dog park as part of the collaboration with Freedom Barks. Collection for Bench 4 is underway, with 100 lbs. of plastic collected. We can now take the plastic to the County facility and receive credit for the Twp’s recycling tonnage grant & Clean Communities program; however we lost some credit towards this bench since

plastics were sent to a location in Camden County. Ilene Wright talked about creating a Green Team Auxiliary group for presentations on many topics, including food waste and for using plastic-free products. Guest Ruth Darlington would be interested in serving on this group.

• Other Grant Applications/Projects--Arbor Day Foundation has grants available. The Tree Recovery Program also has grants, which are a donation of tree seedlings, due 1/26/23. Also, Sustainable Jersey has grants thru sponsorship with PSEG due 2/10/23. The Twp. has capital budget money for a lightening detection system/weather station in Hartford Crossing Park. Phase 3 of this lightening detection/weather station project was proposed for parks in the Village, including the canoe trail. You can apply to PSEG for either $10,000 or $20,000. Board members were asked if they would recommend Phase II of the Lightening Detection/weather station in the Village, or to fund the climate change & resiliency element to the Twp. Master Plan as now required by the State. Voice vote was in favor of applying for Phase III of the lightening detection/weather station for the Village.

• Oak/Acorn Project – It was decided to abandon the project as a committee, by motion of Bo Petrillo and second by Ileen. Motion approved unanimously. It was suggested that one of the Rotaries may be interested to take over.

• Community Information/Educational Programs and Topics – March 14, 2023
Possible topics for inclusion are the Lanternfly, Certified Wildlife Habitat, Wetlands & Wetlands Buffers, and Green Friendly household items. Speakers need to be confirmed so advertising for the event can begin. Wildlife habitat is a national certification. Rutgers has grant programs for creating wildlife habitat and rain gardens. Guest Cecilia Schmidt was invited by Bob Lee, as she is a resident and noted Landscape Architect who has worked in this area her entire career. She mentioned that the Pinelands Nursery may be able to donate materials to create a demonstration garden. She is also experienced in the process, and offered to help with the task and speak at the program. Pamela Sloves & Robert Lee will work with Cecilia on this topic. The committee discussed educating the public on leaf collection and how it is beneficial to the environment. Mention to HOA’s to this in educating their members. Bo Petrillo will speak to the public on wetlands, as will Ilene Wright on green household items & food packaging, Speakers event to take place at the Public Safety Building on March 14th. 20-25 minutes per speaker.

• Cross County Connection MTA meeting – Looking to get certification as a Safe Routes to School Community
• Community Composting project - No update
• Bike Rodeo in coordination with Police Dept. - No Update
• \_Farm Market – No Update
• \_ROSI – Complete review and Recommendation (Monitor) – No Update
• \_NJ Future - Technical Assistance for FEMA Community Rating System/ Flood Resiliency and Mitigation (Monitor) - No updates
• \_Plastic Bag Ban - No Updates
• \_Rain Garden Project with PPA and Rutgers (Monitor) - No updates.

1. **New Business**• Tree City USA - February 15th is the deadline to submit our application. Bo Petrillo will assist Beth in preparing the submission.
• Earth Day - April 22, 2023. This date selected for the annual Towns Wide Yard Sale (in conjuction with the Womans Club) and Tree Seedling Distribution @ Freedom Park. Beth has reached out to the Womans Club; awaiting a reply.
2. **Planning & Zoning Considerations** - None
3. **Next Meeting** – Was scheduled to be February 14th. The unanimous consensus of the Board was to change the date to Wednesday, February 8, 2023
4. **Adjournment--**Deb Evans motioned, Robert Lee seconded. All in favor (8:37 pm)